The Asia Foundation Combating Trafficking of Women and Children CA No. 367-A-00-01-00130-00

PROGRESS REPORT April - June 2002

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

- Partners' work status
- Baseline survey
- Training activities
- Publications
- Monitoring and evaluation

Partners' work status

FWLD conducted a half-day workshop with key stakeholders including UNIFEM, JIT, Maiti Nepal, ABC Nepal, and others on June 5, 2002. A very thorough document was circulated by FWLD on the SAARC Convention provisions and alternative language that needs to be lobbied further and used in the Convention. The whole document was reviewed from a rights perspective, and all present agreed on the language and made suggestions.

Twelve interns from Maiti Nepal, ABC Nepal, CVICT, and WOREC completed the training for psychosocial counseling for trafficked women and youth on June 18, 2002, conducted by CVICT. This is part of the institutional development effort for NGOs engaged actively in rehabilitation. The internship was from mid February to mid June. As a result of this program, interns have become capable in supportive and problem-solving counseling, and are intended as support for the NGOs.

NNAGT conducted a talk program on "Effectiveness of existing laws and institutional mechanisms to combat trafficking of women and children" on June 28, 2002, with various network and non network members, other stakeholders, NGOs, and the media. FWLD presented research and findings on the subject, which was quite informative and well received by all. This forum has been a useful dissemination tool for all anti trafficking activists, and the next such quarterly program intends to focus on the findings of research conducted in Rupandehi by NNAGT that may also be used to lobby on the SAARC convention findings by FWLD.

WOREC conducted a residential "Training of trainers for strengthening the labor migration process and combating trafficking of women and children in Nepal" from June 12 to18 in Bhaktapur. There were around 20 participants in the training program, from WOREC, NGO Federation, and All Nepal Women's Association, who will be the working partners for the Safe Migration component of the project at the district level. The training contents included orientation on labor migration issues and the role of employment agencies, and the desired role of civil society in facilitating a safe process. Among others, resource persons for the training program included government officials from the Ministry of Labor, a representative of foreign employment agencies in Nepal, and a member of the National Women's Commission.

CeLRRD is in the last stage of completion of their study on labor and migration laws in the context of women's trafficking and women's right to migrate.

Baseline survey

An in-house consultant at the Foundation is currently generating the baseline report based on the survey conducted by five partners in their lead districts. This will be available by July end.

Training activities

Regular training activities were conducted by WOREC, CeLRRD, ABC Nepal, Maiti Nepal, and NGO Federation in their respective districts for adolescent girls and women and VDC/ District task force members during March-June. The partners relied on the training manual prepared by WOREC for the two target groups. The manual will be printed and refined based on the feedback of various partners.

Publications

WOREC provided the Foundation with draft versions of training manuals for low-level anti trafficking professionals, for adolescent girls and women, and for DDC and VDC level task forces. In addition, WOREC published a Nepali translation of "Human rights and trafficking in persons", originally published by GAATW. WOREC will soon take produce an information kit for migrant workers.

CeLRRD reproduced their legal earlier-published literacy booklet, a poster, and an information booklet for transport workers.

ABC Nepal has published a poster and a booklet on trafficking for elected women representatives.

FWLD produced a Nepali translation of the SAARC convention, and will be publishing the alternative language on the SAARC convention and an advocacy leaflet for further lobbying.

NNAGT published its regular quarterly newsletter.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Program staff of the Foundation have kept in regular contact with the partners and have conducted field visits to monitor training and regular partner activities.

Issues and challenges during this period:

Shift in training venue

The lack of security at the VDC level prompted a shift in training venue for community gatherings from VDC to the district level. Barring this shift, the program is going smoothly.